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# Congressional Record S. 7835 - Shooting of Governor George Wallace

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# Senate

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1972

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. METCALF).

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Edward L. R. Elson, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, look with compassion and forgiveness upon this troubled land. Cover our sins with Thy healing grace. Extinguish the fires of hate. Subdue all ill will at home and hasten the time of peace abroad. Bring healing and comfort to those who suffer.

Teach us anew, O Lord, what it means to be free to speak, to listen, to govern by the people in a republic of free men. Spare us from the fear that paralyzes and the confusion that makes a nation impotent. Guide all our leaders in service to the people. Lead us in love and fellowship with one another in unity of spirit and in the brotherhood of man for Thy greater glory.

We pray in the name of the Great Redeemer. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of Monday, May 15, 1972, will be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## GOV. GEORGE WALLACE OF ALABAMA

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to express at this time my outrage and dismay at the tragedy which occurred at the Laurel Shopping Center in Maryland on yesterday.

I think, in a democracy such as ours, that every person has a right to voice his opinion. Whether we agree with it is beside the point. The first amendment still stands for candidates for the Presidency as it does for every other citizen.

I must admit that I am horror struck at what happened to Gov. George Wallace of Alabama on yesterday because, to me, it indicates a weakness of some kind in our democracy and a trend over the past decade which bodes no good for the future of this Republic.

I am happy that the President, last night, extended full Secret Service protection to Senator KENNEDY and Representative CHISHOLM, and partial Secret Service protection to Representatives MILLS and ASHBROOK, and to Eugene McCarthy.

No full protection can be accorded, certainly not when candidates go into the crowds, away from the protection of

their bodyguards and those delegated to seek after their safety and security.

I do not know what the answer is. But I do want to deplore this dastardly act and to express my hope that Governor Wallace will recover and return to full health and will be able to resume his campaign at the earliest possible moment. It is the least we can expect.

For Governor Wallace, he will have my prayers for a speedy and full recovery.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the distinguished Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) be substituted for the name of the distinguished Senator from Virginia (Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, JR.) today, with respect to the unanimous-consent order of recognition of Senators, and that the order of recognition as between the Senator from Alaska (Mr. GRAVEL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) be reversed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

In accordance with the unanimous-consent agreement just entered into, the Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) is now recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I wish to express my very deep appreciation to the distinguished majority leader for his fine words, and my appreciation to him and to the distinguished assistant majority leader for allowing me 15 minutes' time at this order of the proceedings.

Mr. President, I also wish to express my appreciation to the distinguished Senator from Virginia (Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, JR.) who allowed me to speak at this time and will take his 15 minutes at a later time during the day.

Mr. President, the Nation is shocked and grieved at the cruel blow that has been dealt to Gov. George C. Wallace by a would-be assassin. It is only natural that in the forefront of those who are saddened by this tragedy are the proud people of Alabama, for Governor Wallace, as Governor of our State, is her first citizen and is much beloved by our people. Therefore, on behalf of the people of my great State and on behalf of my distinguished senior colleague (Mr. SPARKMAN) and the distinguished members of the Alabama delegation in the House, and on my own behalf, I express in this great body our deep sorrow and sympathy for Governor Wallace and Mrs. Cornelia Wallace and other members of the Wallace family and give our assurances of our prayers and best wishes for his recovery.

The attempted assassination of Governor Wallace was a cruel and dastardly act which will be universally condemned by all Americans. It is ironic that the leading advocate of law and order in the presidential race should be the victim of such a criminal stroke.

America must be made safe from law violators and criminals who place them-

selves above the law and who would seek to strike down a man who entertains and expresses views different from their own.

Mr. President, tragedy upon tragedy has been written on the pages of our contemporary political history. The senseless shooting of Governor Wallace is but another evidence of the growing trend in efforts to destroy law and order in our country. It was against this very trend that Governor Wallace was fighting, for there is something wrong with our democratic processes when a public official, in taking his candidacy to the people, literally places his life in jeopardy when he exercises his right of free speech guaranteed to him under the Constitution.

The current issue of the U.S. News & World Report shows that Governor Wallace, though he has not entered all of the presidential preference primaries this year, has received a greater popular vote than any other candidate for President this year.

What has been the secret of his success? People identify with him. They feel that he is one of them, that he is sincerely interested in their welfare, safety, and the betterment of their lives, that he speaks for them, that they know where he stands, that he has never been afraid to stick his neck out when principle is at stake.

Mr. President, when Governor Wallace began carrying his crusade to the people of America in the various primaries a few weeks ago he caught the imagination of the people of America with his awareness and discernment of America's problems. By his astuteness at getting to the crux of the Nation's problems heretofore ignored by many, he changed the entire complexion of the primaries and defined the issues in this election year.

Millions upon millions of Americans see in Governor Wallace the strength, the good, and the faith that characterizes the true spirit and heritage of America. They recognize that here is a man who instinctively and sincerely understands their struggle for law and order, for the sanctity of their homes and their battle against high taxes, inflation, giveaway programs, forced busing, and perhaps most important the need for a firm stand against the historic flow of power from the people to a faceless bureaucracy in Washington.

As a result of Governor Wallace's crusade, the people of America are sending to Washington a message that is being heard loud and clear by members of the Washington crowd. This message will influence the presidential campaign of 1972 and will have a decided effect on the political philosophy of this country and the direction in which our vast Federal bureaucracy moves.

Yes, Mr. President, the people are sending to Washington a message through the vehicle of their votes in the Democratic primaries, votes that are



snowballing to high levels and that doubtless would have resulted—and probably still will—in victories in the Maryland and Michigan primaries.

Yes, Mr. President, the people of America are not to be denied their making of Governor Wallace a serious candidate for the presidency. Governor Wallace's place in history is assured. He will rank with the great presidential champions of the downtrodden, as one who has belief in the average man and woman, as one who believes in the American dream and the right of any American from any section of our country to aspire to the Nation's highest office.

But the tragedy which has befallen Governor Wallace sends a message to us, also. It sends the message that we must find a way in which all Americans can live together in peace and harmony, that we must find a way in which the peoples of the world may live together in peace and harmony, that we must find a way to end violence in this country, that all must recognize that everyone is subject to the law and that no man is above the law. Let us pray that this tragedy will help attain these desirable ends.

Mr. President, I commend the distinguished Senator from Minnesota (Mr. HUMPHREY) and the distinguished Senator from South Dakota (Mr. McGOVERN) for their gracious actions and conduct following the tragedy and their expressions of sympathy to Governor Wallace and the Wallace family and their cessation of political activities as the Michigan and Maryland campaigns come to a close.

Mr. President, I could not conclude my remarks without expressing my sympathy for the good people of Maryland that this tragedy should occur in the great State of Maryland, and I hasten to say that our feeling and, I am sure of the Governor and his family, is that the people of Maryland are a hospitable, friendly, law-abiding people with a tradition of tolerance, compassion, and hospitality extending back for more than 300 years. So, our feeling toward the great State of Maryland and its fine people is one of understanding and sympathy for them and regret, not only that the tragedy occurred at all, but that it should have occurred in the State of Maryland.

Mr. President, although George Wallace lies in mortal danger—his fate is in the hands of an omnipotent God. The prayers of the people are with him. But whatever that fate may be, let no man doubt the solemn truth that his spirit will live on and that this message and his challenge shall be picked up and carried forward by that army of men and women in this great Nation who are ever willing to risk their lives and fortunes and their sacred honor in the cause of freedom of the individual against dictatorial, totalitarian governments.

#### THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF GOV. GEORGE C. WALLACE—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 234

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I introduce at this time, on behalf of myself and my distinguished senior colleague, the senior Senator from Alabama (Mr. SPARKMAN), a joint resolution and ask

unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read the joint resolution the first time by title and the second time at length.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the joint resolution? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. President, I want to indicate that when the distinguished majority leader spoke so eloquently a few moments ago, he spoke not only for those on the majority side of the aisle, but also for the Senate as a whole. Regardless of political differences or affiliations, all decent, patriotic, and self-respecting Americans deplore the tragic, senseless act which occurred yesterday. Such an incident demeans our political process and it tends to degrade our society.

I know that the Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle join with all Americans in prayers for the complete recovery of Governor Wallace.

Mr. President, I do not believe we should jump to a conclusion that our society as a whole is sick because a few are mentally deranged and are capable of such acts. However, the situation demonstrates the need for increased efforts on the part of those who have the responsibility to protect candidates running for office, particularly candidates for President.

Mr. President, I am pleased to support the joint resolution introduced by the distinguished Senator from Alabama and join in the prayers that Governor Wallace will quickly recover and will once again be able to exercise the right that every American should have, the right to run for the Office of President of the United States.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Michigan for his fine remarks.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 234) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas, Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama was shot and critically wounded on May 15, 1972, by a would-be assassin; and

Whereas, this act of violence is deplored and universally condemned by all Americans; and

Whereas, the people of the Nation are shocked that this tragedy could occur and that our democratic processes are fraught with such danger to those who actively participate therein; and

Whereas, all Americans are saddened at this tragedy and sympathize deeply with Governor Wallace and his family and pray for his recovery; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace is deeply deplored and condemned; and

That Governor Wallace has the best wishes and prayers of all citizens for his speedy recovery; and

That the Wallace family is extended the sympathy and encouragement and best wishes of all members of Congress, the distinguished Vice President and the President of the United States.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska (Mr. GRAVEL) is recognized for not to exceed 15 minutes.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator from Alaska yield to me for 2 minutes?

Mr. GRAVEL. I yield to the majority leader.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

#### FIRE BOMBINGS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to speak on another matter which bears in a certain sense a relationship to the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace. Within the past several days there have been attempts to fire bomb, I understand, the campaign headquarters of our colleague, Senator JOHN TOWER of Texas, and recently, on yesterday, our associate in the House, Representative BROOMFIELD.

I hope this does not mark a trend in that direction as far as other candidates are concerned, whether they be Democratic or Republican candidates, but it does seem to appear that once somebody does something, a chain of events is set in motion and new circumstances begin to occur. For example, in the case of hijacking, someone thought of the idea, it worked, others followed, and it becomes almost epidemic at times. The same could be said about assassinations and attempted assassinations of those who have aspired for high political office in the past decade.

I hope we would be aware of these events and if legislation is necessary to take care of actions of this kind in the future we would consider it, and to note most carefully that what applies to presidential candidates in one sense, less directly applies to certain candidates for office this year.

I thank the Senator for yielding.

#### THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF GOVERNOR WALLACE

Mr. GRAVEL. Mr. President, I rise also, as did the Senator from Alabama and the distinguished majority leader, to express my feelings about the dastardly act that took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

I consider myself an opponent of the views expressed in the course of his campaign by the Governor of Alabama, but I think he not only had a legal right but every moral right to push for the views that he held so strongly. I can say he was a great advocate, and is a great advocate, of the causes he pursues.

I not only decry the senselessness—and I had occasion to view the film of the shooting on television—but I also do not think there is any normal citizen who